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# CASS CITY CHRONICLE

Complete coverage of the Cass City community and surrounding areas since 1899

VOLUME 107, NUMBER 2 CASS CITY, MICHIGAN - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 75 CENTS - 16 PAGES, 1 SUPPLEMENT

## School debates Campbell sale

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

The Cass City Board of Education will decide next month whether to sell the Campbell Elementary School building this year rather than wait until the end of a 3-year lease agreement district officials have signed with a dental group planning to utilize the structure.

Board members discussed the sale at length during their regular monthly meeting Monday night after school Supt. Jeff Hartel announced that representatives of the newly-formed Thumb Area Dental Clinic have expressed an interest in purchasing the former school now for \$85,000, the price discussed earlier this year when the dental group requested a lease agreement with an option to purchase the building.

The dental group is composed of roughly 30 Thumb area dentists who are planning to set up shop in the school and open a new, non-profit clinic that will improve access to dental care for underserved children and adults in the region.

Under the lease agreement, the dental group will make lease payments of \$500 per month to the district for

use of the west wing of the building, plus its share of utility expenses.

Caro dentist Dr. Dennis Spillane approached the board with the proposal, saying the participating dentists intend to fund the venture with their own resources along with grant dollars.

Hartel told the board Monday that he believes the building sale could be approved now with an agreement on both sides that would give school officials the first right to buy back the building in the future, provide school officials with use of the gym, and allow the district to use space for its daycare program in the future if needed.

"They want it to be successful on both ends. They are truly a partner with us," Hartel said of the dental group's flexibility in negotiating terms of a sale.

"To me, if we're going to sell it, let's do it and move on. That's my personal opinion," Hartel said, noting the school would retain ownership of the playground and parking lot. "I don't think we're going to get a higher quality buyer than what we have on the table right now."

According to Hartel, selling the

Please turn to page 12.



**MEMBERS OF THE Cass City High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Laura Curtis, perform for Cass City Elementary School students in conjunction with Music In Our Schools Month. (See story, page 8)**

### Step pay, stipend approved

## O-G teachers have new pact

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Teachers in the Owen-Gage School District are working under a new contract that will remain in effect through the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Representatives of the local teachers union and the Owen-Gage Board of Education hammered out the final details for the 2-year pact during a handful of what school Supt. Jim Wencil characterized as productive negotiation sessions.

"It was pretty hassle-free. We had some good debates at the table, but it was all cordial," Wencil said.

The district's 14 teachers had been working without a contract. The instructors' last 2-year labor agreement expired in June.

Under the new contract, a district-wide freeze in "step" pay increases based on years of service was lifted for this year only, meaning a teacher who is in his or her third year of service to the school but was being paid at the first-step level will now receive the pay of a third-year teacher.

Step pay increases have been frozen for the past 2 years and will be frozen again in the second year of the new contract for teachers who are at step 12 or under, Wencil noted.

"The insurance didn't change, except they have the option of taking a different plan which is cheaper for

them," Wencil said. He explained that the second option carries a higher deductible but reduces employees' out-of-pocket cost.

The new contract also calls for all teachers to receive a one-time stipend of \$300, similar to the bonus paid to non-instructional personnel in December, according to the school superintendent.

"All of our employees are valuable to us, and the board wanted to do something for them," said Wencil, who added Owen-Gage teachers' salaries remain at the lower end of scale compared to districts through-

out the Huron Intermediate School District. "The board wishes we could pay them more. They're good people."

Under the last contract, pay for Owen-Gage teachers ranged from \$32,512 for a first-year instructor with a bachelor's degree, to \$56,312 for a teacher with 12 years of experience and a master's degree plus an additional 30 hours of educational credit.

The new contract will not be affected by Michigan's new Right-to-Work law, which enables union

Please turn to page 8.

## Council okays tax abatement

by Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Cass City officials took some baby steps during a regular monthly meeting of the village council Monday to up employment locally, while announcing the village's own workforce has endured a major loss.

First the good news. Following a brief public hearing Monday, the council unanimously approved an Industrial Facilities Exemption (IFT) request for Micro EDM Machine & Tool LLC, 4429 Doerr Rd., Cass City.

The 50-percent tax abatement, for a 12-year period, will apply to the purchase of a Swiss Lathe valued at \$99,500.

"The new equipment will add 5 jobs and increase the customer base and sales for the company. It's a win-win for the village and Mirco EDM," Village Manger Peter Cristiano told the half dozen citizens in attendance.

Turning to a rezoning request, trustee Jenny Zawilinski's motion to refer the changing of the classifica-

tion of the Campbell Elementary School building, located at 6627 Rose St., to the Planning Commission was quickly approved. The rezoning, from RA-1 to OS-1, will permit the school to lease a portion of the building to the Thumb Area Dental Clinic (TADC).

In a letter to the village, Cass City School Supt. Jeff Hartel reports the district is in the process of leasing out the west end of Campbell Elementary to the TADC for a 3-year period with an option to buy the entire building at the end of the lease.

As was the case with the IFT, Cristiano says the zoning reclassification will bring needed jobs to the community.

### BITTERSWEET

During Cristiano's manager's report to the council, he announced long-time Cass City Parks and Recreation Director Sam Moore has been selected as the new city admin

Please turn to page 12.

## Study ranks healthiest counties across nation

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Residents in the Thumb's upper 3 counties are living healthier lifestyles overall than many of their counterparts across the state. But there's still room for improvement.

According to the fourth annual County Health Rankings, released last week by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Michigan counties are actively working on

improving health factors and outcomes, but they still need work.

For the second year in a row, Leelanau County — located in northwest Michigan in the Lower Peninsula — was ranked as the number one healthiest among the state's 83 counties. Wayne County fell to the unhealthiest county after remaining low for the last 4 years.

In the Thumb, Sanilac County was ranked 32nd, while Tuscola came in 39th and Huron County, 42nd.

While the numbers are not stagger-

Please turn to page 8.

## Cass City native pens sequel to "Acquisition"

by Tom Montgomery  
Editor

Wilson McCann is a high-powered CEO whose personal priorities were severely out of whack. He lost his company, his mother, his dog and the love of his life. Driven to his knees, he found God. Three years later, the nation's economic deterioration impacts his friends' livelihood, and the investors in his new company threaten to sell out. A national telecommunications firm vies with an unscrupulous hedge fund operator to acquire McCann's company, and McCann comes face-to-face with the need to commit totally to his faith and his company - to "sell out" to God and the beautiful woman God has sent to stand beside him.

Set against the backdrop of greed-driven corporate espionage, the potential collapse of the nation's financial system, and misplaced priorities, *Sell Out* is the compelling story of a man seeking to know what it means to love God with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength.

**BOB ZINNECKER** is a 55-year veteran of the telecommunications industry. He spent 33 years with CONTEL Corporation, managing operations in Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and New York, prior to leading the New York State Telecommunications Association. He currently operates a consulting service, providing practical management assistance for today's changing world. Bob is a Senior Certified Professional Manager and is a charter member of the Institute of Certified Professional Managers. He is the author of *Acquisition*, a Christian fictional novel set in the telecommunications industry. He has written numerous articles and devotionals that have been published in religious and business media. Bob has four grown children and eight grandchildren. He and his wife, Elaine, reside in Penfield, New York.

FICTION / Christian / General

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SELL OUT  
ROBERT W. ZINNECKER  
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# SELL OUT



ROBERT W. ZINNECKER

A Cass City native has again drawn on his extensive professional background as well as memories of growing up in the Thumb to weave a tale of personal struggle in his latest Christian fictional novel, "Sell Out".

Outskirts Press, which released Bob Zinnecker's debut novel, "Acquisition" in 2011, is also publishing his latest work, which is expected to be on bookstore shelves any day now.

"Author Bob Zinnecker takes his fictional hero, Wilson McCann, on a quest to sort out what it means to 'sell out' to God, his company and a beautiful woman who loves him in 'Sell Out,'" an Outskirts Press press release states.

"Sell Out" takes readers along with McCann through one of the most turbulent times in our nation's economic history. It's 2008 and the financial system is declining into recession. Matching wits with an unscrupulous hedge fund operator who will stop at nothing, including attempted murder and corporate espionage, McCann struggles to hold onto his company while grappling with an inability to commit...to God, to his investors and to the beautiful woman who loves him.

"Zinnecker uses his 55 years of experience in leading successful organizations to show the impacts of financial collapse on everyone from big city investment bankers to small town farmers," the release states. "At the same time, his characters explore what it means to respond to the Bible's challenge to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

Zinnecker, who wrote much of his own while dealing with a struggle of his own — recovery from back surgery to repair a disintegrated disc — says many of the characters from "Acquisition" are in "Sell Out".

Please turn to page 6.

# Still time to enroll for spring quarter at Baker

With spring quarter beginning Monday, April 1, there is still time to enroll for career-focused programs at Baker College of Cass City, a satellite campus of Baker College of Flint. Registration is ongoing through the first week of classes.

Some of the career programs offered at Baker College of Cass City this spring include human service, business management, business administration, medical receptionist, medical insurance specialist, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, early childhood education, computer information systems

and computer technology options. Many financial assistance opportunities are available. For more information, call Baker College of Cass City at (989) 872-6000. Students may also schedule an appointment via the Baker College website: www.baker.edu.

# Deadline approaching for 4-H Council Scholarships

The deadline is approaching for the Huron County 4-H Council Scholarship applications.

Two letters of recommendation are required. Students may pick up an application from Huron County high school guidance counselors, as well as at the MSU Extension Office, 1142 S. Van Dyke Rd., Suite 200, Bad Axe, or go online to www.msue.msu.edu/huron and click on 4-H Youth Development (left side

on the home page). Applications and letters of recommendation must be turned in to the Huron County MSU Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 1. For more information or an application form, contact the MSU Extension - Huron County at (989) 2699949 (ext. 604).

# Story Times scheduled at Rawson Memorial Library

Story Times at Rawson Memorial District Library are right around the corner.

will be held Tuesday mornings in April from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Caregivers attend with the child. The preschool class, for ages 3 to 5, will

be held Thursday mornings in April from 10 to 11 a.m. Caregivers need not attend, but must remain in the library during the hour-long session. Rawson Library's Smart Start Story Times teach creative expression, social skills, listening comprehension, and the foundations of reading through letter and number recognition and vocabulary building. Sign up your children for these sessions at the circulation desk or by calling (989) 872-2856. Limited space is available for each session.

# Good Friday services scheduled at CCUM

A Community Good Friday Service will be held at the Cass City United Methodist Church (located 1 1/4 miles north of the downtown stoplight) at 1 p.m., March 29.

An Evening Good Friday Worship Service, sponsored by the Cass City United Methodist Church, will be held at 7 p.m., also March 29. This service will be different from the earlier service. It is an opportunity for those who may not have had a chance to attend a service earlier in the day to be part of the Good Friday experience.

# Several area residents on honors list

More information is available by calling (989) 872-3422.

Officials at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, recently released the school's fall semester honors list, which includes several students in the Cass City area who earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

- Cass City** — sophomore Amanda Clifton, senior Heather L. Depcinski, freshman Kelsey M. Dillon, sophomore Krista A. Guinther, freshman Rebecca L. Hacker, sophomore Sterling O. Herrmann, junior Amanda M. Kaake and senior Carl W. Nicol.
- Caro** — junior Kayla L. Jamieson, sophomore Chelsea A. Kozar, senior Allison M. MacKenzie, sophomore Troy Mullin, sophomore Elise C. Pelletier, sophomore Jake A. Sattelberg, senior Kyle J. Schian, junior Haley L. Tomlinson, sophomore Ashley S. Williams, junior Katherine M. Wojewoda, and sophomore Sarah B. Zmierski.
- Kingston** — freshman Gary H. Hilt.
- Owendale** — senior Nickol A. Shetler.
- Snover** — freshman Kelsey M. Roggenbuck and senior Ashley L. Szymanski.
- Uby** — senior Alexander M. Osentoski and sophomore Laura S. Warner.

# Hills & Dales hosting Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes

Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City will host Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes at the hospital.

Series one will be held Mondays beginning March 18 and will run for 5 weeks. Series 2 will be held Thursdays beginning March 28 and will run for 5 weeks. All classes will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per series. The class fee can be paid on the first night of class. Cash or checks payable to Hills and Dales General Hospital are accepted.

Participants are asked to bring their own yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing that allows the body to move freely.

Space is limited, so participants are asked to sign up ahead of time by calling the Community Education Department at (989) 912-6365.

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8			5			4		7

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5	1	4	6	5	3	8	2	7
5	8	6	7	4	2	9	1	3
4	6	9	2	7	5	1	3	8
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6	9	5	1	2	7	3	8	4
2	7	3	9	8	4	5	6	1
8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2

# In Our OPINION..

Clarke Haire  
Publisher

Tom Montgomery  
Editor

## State's a leader in autism awareness

Michigan residents typically celebrate April by getting back outdoors as Old Man Winter finally loosens his grip on the state.

April is also Autism Awareness Month, and residents whose lives have been affected by this disorder in the Great Lakes State have plenty to celebrate, thanks to efforts that are making Michigan a leader in promoting awareness of autism and launching programs designed to help families obtain the support they need.

Last year, the state implemented legislation requiring insurance companies to provide autism treatment coverage for children.

More recently, the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Autism Council released the Michigan Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) State Plan, which represents another major step in addressing the needs of the estimated 16,000 students with ASD in the state's public schools and the 50,000 individuals and their families living with ASD in Michigan.

Specifically, the plan targets improvements in service and resource coordination; family engagement and involvement; early identification and intervention services; educational supports and services; adult supports and services; physical, mental and behavioral health care; and training and professional development.

Autism is a neurological impairment that causes significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

Autism falls under the diagnosis of ASD, a group of 5 brain disorders that are complex and affect individuals at varying degrees. ASD includes autism, Asperger syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and Rett syndrome.

Each person with ASD has a unique set of characteristics, but most of them will have difficulty socializing with others, communicating verbally or non-verbally, and behaving appropriately in a variety of settings. The disorder can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues, although many people with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

In Michigan, roughly 50,000 individuals have ASD — the estimate is one in 88 children nationwide. To put the numbers into perspective, experts say more children are diagnosed with autism each year than with juvenile diabetes, AIDS or cancer, combined.

Boys are almost 5 times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with ASD, the disorder occurs in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups and is a lifelong disability. ASD is also the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the country.

Which makes the efforts in Michigan to deal with the challenges inherent in ASD even more vital for thousands of families.

## Slices of Life

by Jill Pertler

### Death of the dishwasher




We've had an on-again, off-again relationship for more than a decade. I guess if I'm going to come clean, I shoulder most of the responsibility for the spotty patches. Relationships require a certain amount of effort; I wasn't consistent about the maintenance needed to keep things running smoothly. I realized I was being lax, but just sort of took things for granted. It happens to the best of us — when it comes to our appliances.

My dishwasher and I existed harmoniously for months — even years — at a time. He did the job he was purchased to do. I supplied him with dirty dishes and 97 minutes later relieved him of clean ones.

We had a perfect relationship — from my perspective. Until spots appeared. Not in front of my eyes, but on cups, plates and silverware. The first time this occurred, I learned spotty dishes are often caused by a phenomenon known as clogged dishwasher jets. The remedy for unclogging jets involves cleaning the dishwasher — which is perhaps the most counter-intuitive task I've encountered in years. Since I've never considered myself pro-clog (unless we're talking about footwear) I vowed to stay on top of my maintenance duties by flushing my jets on a regular basis.

This was a great theory — with one massive leak. As long as the dishwasher kept up his end of the cleaning bargain, I forgot about the gunk building up in his jets — until they started spewing white spots on my cutlery and I knew I better initiate a therapeutic dishwasher intervention — again. (Cycle complete, and then repeat.)

One thing I've learned over the years is the best way to solve a problem (besides ignoring it until it goes away) involves peeling back the layers until you get to the core of the issue. In my situation, this meant dismantling the dishwasher part by part, screw by screw, jet by jet.

Over our 13-year relationship, I became intimate with the innards of my dishwasher and had a working — if not nearly personal — relationship with each of his jets. So, when white spots appeared on the dishes last week, I approached the situation with the calm of a yoga master on Xanax.

I took a deep, cleansing breath and proceeded to unscrew, degunk and de-clog with the prowess and flexibility of a woman who's done it all before. My husband even joined me in the act. I love when we bond over household chores. When complete, we put the machine back together and set him up for a test run (the dishwasher, not my husband).

Five minutes into the wash cycle, my husband took a peek inside and made an important and unfortunate discovery. Clogged jets were only the start of our spotty predicament. Even though we were mid-wash cycle, the inside of the dishwasher remained dry. We had a pump problem. Too complex — and costly — to warrant fixing on a 13-year old machine (which equates to 91 in dog years).

My on-again, off-again relationship with my dishwasher was officially off-again — for good. I now stare at the empty hole in my kitchen where the dishwasher stood sentry for over a decade. Another model will take his place upon delivery in five to seven business days, and a new relationship will begin.

Meanwhile, our old dishwasher has moved on to a better place (for now a semi-hidden spot in the corner of the backyard) where every dish is as clean and spot-free


as a tabula rasa. Best of all, I am secure in and comforted by the knowledge that he enters his new home with jets that are clear and completely gunk-free.

Follow Slices of Life on Facebook and hit Like (please). Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, playwright and author of "The Do-It-Yourselfer's Guide to Self-Syndication" Email her at [permtm@qwest.net](mailto:permtm@qwest.net); or visit her website at <http://marketing-by-design.home.mchsi.com/>.

## Rabbit Tracks

by Clarke Haire

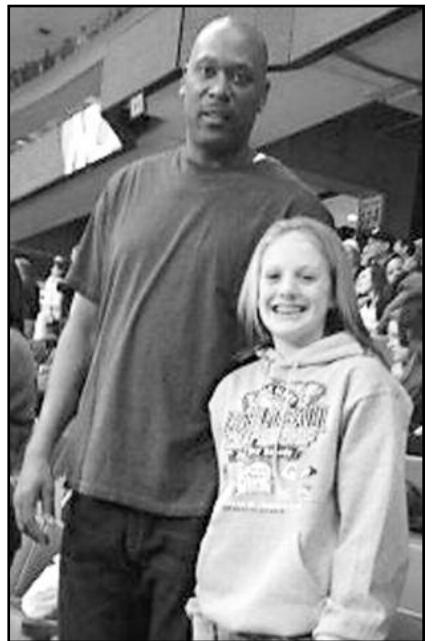
(And anyone else he can get to help)



My son, Parker, and I attended the 2013 NCAA Mens Basketball Tournament last week at the Palace of Auburn Hills. We and 21,000 others had a great time watching history being made, with both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University advancing to the round of 16 for the first time in the same year. However, our experience pales compared to that of Cass City's Rylie Weiler.

Yep, that's the Red Hawk seventh grader posing with former NBA great Glen "Big Dog" Robinson. She also met up with past NBA legend Tim Hardaway Sr. during Saturday's Round 3 session.

Still, her handshake later that day with current Wolverine guard and projected future NBA star Trey Burke made her experience one she won't forget anytime soon.

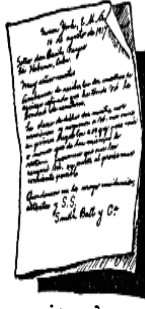


## Have a concern? A complaint? Just want to voice your opinion?

### The Cass City Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. The latter is in case it is necessary to call for verification, but won't be used in the newspaper. Names will be withheld from publication upon request, for an adequate reason. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

We will not publish thank you letters of a specific nature, for instance, from a club thanking merchants who donated prizes for a raffle.



Speaking of the NCAA tournament, how's your bracket doing? In the Chronicle's employee contest, proof reader Deb Severance leads the pack with 44 points (one point for correctly picking the winners in round 2 and two points for picking the winners in round 3). But she's closely trailed by Editor Tom Montgomery and me with 42 points each. Both Deb and I have correctly picked 10 of the 16 teams remaining.

I have MSU winning it all; she has Indiana claiming the national championship.

Here's some community relations news from Cass City Village Council member Kevin Israelson. The personnel and public safety committee member reports Chief of Police Craig Haynes and Sgt. Jim Freeman recently attended the welcome reception and announcement of *The Child Advocacy Center of Tuscola County*.

Israelson added Sgt. Freeman serves on the Child Advocacy Advisory Board and was active in establishing the center in Tuscola County.



Need more on our police department? Israelson also says Sgt. Freeman, Officer Kevin Laming and Officer Bill Hartzell all have recently attended Active Shooter Response training.

"Hope they never have to use it," says Israelson, but if they do it's nice to know they have had the training.

Here's a reminder that the Chronicle office will be closed on Good Friday from noon to 3 pm. We also would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and to Cass City school students and staff a safe spring break.

## CASS CITY CHRONICLE

6550 Main Street  
P.O. Box 115  
Cass City, MI 48726  
Phone: (989) 872-2010  
Fax: (989) 872-3810  
Email: [chronicle@ccchronicle.net](mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net)  
Website: [www.ccchronicle.net](http://www.ccchronicle.net)

**News Staff**

Clarke Haire  
Publisher  
[clarke@ccchronicle.net](mailto:clarke@ccchronicle.net)

Tom Montgomery  
Editor  
[tom@ccchronicle.net](mailto:tom@ccchronicle.net)

Harmony Doerr  
Office Manager  
[chronicle@ccchronicle.net](mailto:chronicle@ccchronicle.net)

Krysta Boyce  
Sr. Sales Executive  
[sales@ccchronicle.net](mailto:sales@ccchronicle.net)

Tina Pallas  
Digital Media Director  
[tina@ccchronicle.net](mailto:tina@ccchronicle.net)

Deb Severance  
Composition

Melva Guinther  
Columnist

Jill Pertler  
Columnist

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The Cass City Chronicle reserves the right to edit any and all copy for content and size restrictions. Final editorial judgement lies with the Chronicle management and staff. Deadline for classified advertising is Monday, noon and deadline for display advertising is Friday, 5 p.m. for the next week's edition.

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**Social News**

The Cass City Chronicle will gladly publish social news free of charge. Social news includes: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, college graduations, birth announcements and similar items. There is a \$4 fee to include a photo.

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**Obituary Rates**

Obituary notices cost \$19 per insertion. There is a \$4 additional charge for including a photo.

(USPS 092-700)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deadline for submitting items in the calendar is the Friday noon before publication.

## Wednesday, March 27

Spoonfuls of Plenty FREE Community Meal, 4-6 p.m., LeeRoy Clark Building, 435 Green St., Caro. Open to anyone wanting a hot, home-style meal.

Owen-Gage School Board meeting, 7 p.m.

Huron County Alzheimer's and Family Caregiver Support Group, Huron Behavioral Health, Bad Axe. For more information, contact Rhonda Quinn at (989) 269-9293.

Ravenous Readers Book Club, noon, Rawson Memorial District Library.

## Thursday, March 28

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Community Lunch, noon, Shabbona United Methodist Church.

Thumb TEA Party, 1 p.m., Rawson Memorial District Library. The Blaze Documentary "The Project", a Muslim road map for infiltrating and defeating the West, will be shown.

## Friday, March 29

Al-Anon meeting for family and friends of alcoholics, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, Elkton. For more information, call (989) 912-0546.

## Saturday, March 30

Closed AA meeting, 10-11 a.m., St. Joseph Church, 4960 N. Uby Rd., Argyle. (Meeting will be held in the hall next to the little stone church). For more information, contact Mandy at (989) 975-0544.

## Monday, April 1

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Monday at a Time," 8 p.m., Parkside Cafe, 2031 Main St., Uby. For more information, call Angela R. at (989) 658-2319.

AA meeting, 7-8 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City. For more information, call (989) 553-5932.

Novesta Township Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, April 2

Al-Anon meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis Parrish, Pigeon.

# Farmer's gift to boost Laker FFA and Huron County Fair

Elkton Pigeon Bay Port Lakers FFA and Huron County Community Fair will now be able to better serve their communities, thanks to the support of local farmer Sandy Smith and America's Farmers Grow Communities.

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, America's Farmers Grow Communities provides farmers in eligible counties the chance to win a \$2,500 donation for a local non-profit organization of their choice. To further support counties declared natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) due to the drought last year, winning farmers in these counties are able to direct double donations, a total of

\$5,000.

Huron County was declared a disaster area by the USDA, giving Smith the opportunity to choose 2 organizations to receive \$2,500 donations. Smith selected the Elkton Pigeon Bay Port Lakers FFA and Huron County Community Fair.

Elkton Pigeon Bay Port Lakers FFA will be using this donation to obtain new materials for the classroom that will benefit not only the students, but teachers as well. The Huron County Community Fair will use its funds to assist with improvements to camping and electrical hook-ups at the fairgrounds. They have plans to upgrade and improve the camping facilities, as well as increase security lighting.

"I am so excited because I am a counselor, so I enjoy helping others and this is a fantastic way to do so," Smith said. "I feel so blessed to have the opportunity."

This year, the Monsanto Fund will invest nearly \$6 million in rural America through Grow Communities, which includes double donations for counties impacted by the historic drought.

In Michigan, \$185,000 is being presented across 37 counties.

America's Farmers Grow Communities is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to partner with farmers in helping them positively impact their communities. This program is part of the Monsanto Fund's overall effort to strengthen rural America.

## Circuit court news

# Several charged with felonies

The following people appeared in Tuscola County Circuit Court last week on various felony charges:

•Dale R. Lasiewicki, 61, Caro, was sentenced to 2 to 5 years in prison following his pleas of guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Sept. 23 in Dayton Township, and no contest to fleeing and eluding a police officer, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, and 3 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon Nov. 26 in Wells Township.

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay court costs and fines totaling \$2,268 plus restitution of \$240.

•Jason M. Marygold, 35, Caro, pleaded guilty to a charge of polygamy between April 20 and Dec. 17 in Indianfields Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

Marygold married a woman last April in Clark County, Nev., while already married to another woman he had wed in March 2009 in Chippewa County, Mich., according to court records, which state polygamy is a felony punishable by up to 4 years in prison and/or a fine of \$5,000.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered in the case and bond was continued at \$8,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Yvette M. Garcia, 35, Mayville, pleaded no contest to 2 counts of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third

offense — Jan. 2 in Fremont Township and Jan. 8 in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and a combined bond of \$6,000 was continued. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Howard G. Trinklein, 48, Vassar, was sentenced to 93 days in the county jail and 24 months probation following his pleas of no contest to charges of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct and assault or assault and battery Oct. 22 in Vassar.

The jail term was delayed for one year, according to court records, which state the defendant was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$2,428.

•Justin J. Klein, 20, Fairgrove, pleaded no contest to 2 counts of assaulting, resisting or obstructing a police officer Jan. 9 in Fairgrove, and to breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny in a building, and larceny in a building Oct. 23 in Tuscola Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at a combined \$16,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Todd A. Geisenhaver, 37, Millington, pleaded no contest to 2 counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim at least 13 years of age but under 16 years between Nov. 1, 2009, and Dec. 30, 2012, in Vassar and/or Vassar Township. Court records state he was initially charged with 5 counts of first degree and 8 counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct in the case.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$80,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Matthew L. Ward, 38, Vassar, was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with work release and worksite privileges, following his plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance Aug. 22 in Vassar Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on 24 months probation and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$698.

•Robert E. Hawthorne, 33, Vassar, pleaded no contest to 2 counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim at least 13 years of age but under 16 years between February 2012 and December 2012 in Vassar Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, bond was continued at \$100,000 and the defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff's department. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Peter F. Wood, 28, Fairgrove, was sentenced to 330 days in jail, with work release, following his pleas of no contest to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, and domestic violence Sept. 30 in Akron/Akron Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (2 prior felony convictions).

In addition to jail time, he was placed on 60 months probation and ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$848. Restitution in the cast is to be determined.

•Jeremy R. Fosdick, 34, Lapeer, was sentenced to 2 to 15 years in prison following his plea of guilty to retail fraud, first degree, June 14 in Caro. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

In addition to prison time, he was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$198 plus restitution of \$3,263.03.

•Randy L. Bussure, 55, Clifford, pleaded guilty to a charge of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, third offense, Dec. 16 in Dayton Township. He was also convicted of being an habitual offender (3 or more prior felony convictions).

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$6,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•William N. Moore, 64, Davison, pleaded guilty to charges of carrying a concealed weapon and impaired driving Dec. 23 in Millington Township.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and bond was continued at \$3,000. Sentencing is to be scheduled.

•Randall O. Woodward, 41, Cass City, received a one-year delayed sentence following his plea of guilty to writing a non-sufficient fund check for \$500 or more May 30-June 1 in Cass City.



He was ordered to pay costs and fines totaling \$948.

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Send Letters to the Editor to  
Cass City Chronicle  
P.O. Box 115, Cass City

Reporter's notebook

Illinois to ban exotic steaks. I'm not lion

by Tom Montgomery Editor

As a newspaper editor, I feel a certain responsibility to stay on top of breaking news trends in the Midwest...

Well, that's assuming the legislation passes and other states hop on this bandwagon.

I'm not lion.

According to an NBC news report, Illinois could become the first U.S. state to ban the sale of lion meat...

Now, while it's true that African lion populations have been on the decline for years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has not designated the lion as an endangered species...

Hey, I like a nice steak as much as the next guy, but I've never been tempted to risk life and limb for one.

Anyway, do you suppose there really are lion meat connoisseurs in this country?

The answer, evidently, is "yes".

The story I read included a website address for Czimer's Game & Seafood Inc. in Homer Glen, Ill., where the products listed for sale include African lion roasts, steaks, chops, tender loins and burgers...

They must be experiencing a shortage of ostrich, camel, rattlesnake and alligator, too, because various cuts of those meats — all listed for sale on the firm's website — also are not available at this time.

The good news is that Czimer's can set you up with black bear, elk, buffalo, antelope, alpaca, llama, kangaroo and wild boar.

Call me boring, but I'll probably just stick to beef, pork, chicken, etc., when I'm putting together future menus at home.

On the other hand, those smoked frog legs and yak jerky do sound tantalizing...

Down Memory Lane

by Tina Pallas



5 YEARS AGO (2008)

The Easter Egg hunt organized by the Cass City Chamber of Commerce along with several volunteers was a huge success.

Cass City middle school student Audrey VanAuken was recognized with the Tiger Sharks Swim Club's highest honor, as she met the rigid criteria to obtain "Silver Shark" status.

In today's mobile society it's uncommon to find someone who has remained in the same community and in the same career for a lifetime.

10 YEARS AGO (2003)

Some sixth grade students at Owen-Gage Junior-Senior High School were recently surprised with an indoor look at the "night sky".

Gerard and Cecilia Marchand celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married March 7, 1953 in Detroit.

James G. Hoyt of Snover was recently named to the dean's list at

the University of Northwestern Ohio. To be named to the list, a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade point average.

TI Automotive, a global supplier of integrated fuel storage and delivery systems for cars and trucks, has won 2 coveted Shingo Prizes for excellence in manufacturing at its facilities in Caro and New Haven.

25 YEARS AGO (1988)

First place winners in the Wolf, Rear and Webelos divisions of the 1988 annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby are Tim Sherman, Josh Lounsbury (Grand Prix winner) and Justin Hulburt, respectively.

Earning student of the week honors are Cass City 1988 valedictorians who maintained a perfect 4.0 grade average during their high school careers.

The "Razamatat Readers" clinched the 5th and 6th grade division title in the Battle of the Books competition Friday.

Winners of the 3rd and 4th grade division are the "Red Hot Readers," composed of Andrea Cooper, Danny Sherman, Jill Wright, Heather Dunn and Emily Miller.

The Cass City Retail Chamber authorities announced winners in the free prize drawing held Saturday in connection with the "Swing into Spring" sale.

50 YEARS AGO (1963)

Science Fair Winners — Four Cass City High School students were awarded medals as the exhibitors of the best projects during the school's two-day Science Fair Saturday and Sunday.

Ed Retherford, who led Cass City in scoring, was the lone Cass City eager to be named to the 10-man Thumb B All-Conference Basketball team, released this week.

Two Cass City men and a Saginaw

resident were to have left today (Thursday) for Port Ponchartrain, La., where they will begin an estimated six-week boat trip back to Michigan.

Bean growers are advised to grow corn before field beans in their crop rotations in order to reduce root rot.

100 YEARS AGO (1913)

The wind storm that swept the state on Good Friday did not neglect Cass City and the surrounding townships, but did its share of damage to property in town and countryside.

One of the pickle stations of the William Bros. Co. was wrecked at Cass City, one at Pigeon, two at Wilmot and one at Lum. Ed. Heardt, the local manager, informed the Chronicle that the company would rebuild in time to care for this season's crop.

West Grant - At the Joe Cross farm, a new poultry house built last August and containing a hundred fowls, was lifted from the foundation and rolled against a large corn crib 30 feet away, wrecking both buildings.

On Monday evening about seventy neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. J. Spence northwest of town. The younger part of the company were conducted up to the spacious attic, where for a few hours they made the rafters ring as they played Dusty Miller, Gingerbread, and all other old-fashioned games and also some that were new fashioned.

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Cass City Area Church Directory Anchor Cove Outreach Church, Cass City United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Calvary Bible Fellowship, Evangelical Free Church of Cass City, Cass City Church of Christ, First Baptist Church, Cass City Church of the Nazarene, Cass City Missionary Church, First Presbyterian Church, Cass City Missionary Church, First Presbyterian Church, Living Word Worship Center Church of God



# Obituaries

## Wayne Brown

Wayne Edward Brown, 69, of Palm Bay, Fla., passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013 at Holmes Medical Center, Melbourne, Fla., after a long battle with cancer.

He was born Aug. 23, 1943 in Cass City, the son of the late Willis and Loretta (Jackson) Brown.

He married Jill Parker Oct. 9, 1965 in Sacramento, Calif.

Wayne graduated from Cass City High School in 1962 and attended Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant. In 1963, he entered the U.S. Air Force via the military draft, where he remained for over 20 years. His numerous duty assignments included bases in Texas, Japan, California, Nebraska, Thailand, Massachusetts and finally Florida, where he retired in December 1983. Wayne also served his country dur-

ing the Vietnam War in from 1971 to 1972. Throughout his career, he worked with military intelligence units and retired with the Air Force Tactical Applications Center, Patrick AFB, Cocoa Beach, Fla. After his military service, he worked for DBA Systems in Melbourne and Harris Corporation in Palm Bay, retiring in February 2005. Wayne was an avid sports fan throughout his life and especially loved baseball and basketball. He excelled in both sports in high school and later played some baseball with the Philadelphia Phillies minor league organization. Wayne also umpired and coached many young baseball players during their Little League years in Florida. He was also a member of several organizations, including AFA, VFW, Moose Lodge and American Legion.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Jill; sons: Jeff (Jennifer) Brown of

Macclenny, Fla., and Mark Brown of Palm Bay; grandchildren: Jared, Justin and Jack Brown of Macclenny; a sister, Linda Mika (John Ellis) of Oxford; a brother, Morris Brown of Cass City; and many nieces, nephews and in-laws.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Wanda (Tino) Benitez.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., Monday, April 1, at Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

A committal service will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 2, in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Honor service will be by the members of the Cass City VFW Post 3644 and the members of the U.S. Air Force.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneral-home.com](http://www.thabetfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Marian Hendrie

Marian Louise Hendrie, 78, of Mesa, Ariz., passed away Sunday, March 17, 2013 at home.

She was born July 7, 1934 in Centerline, the daughter of the late Lee and Marie (Trudeau) Sefton.

She married Ronald Hendrie in 1962 in Alaska. He preceded her in death in 2002.

Marian was a 1952 graduate of Cass City High School. She moved to Alaska in 1957. The couple lived in Alaska for 33 years before retiring to Mesa. Marian enjoyed family, crossword puzzles, was an avid golfer and loved to travel.

Marian is survived by her sisters: Lois Sugden of Cass City, and Catherine (Ron) Hogue of Fostoria; a brother, Hugh (Margaret) Sefton of Snover; and sisters-in-law: Helen Sefton of Kingston, and Vivian Sefton of Decker.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Joe and Leroy Sefton, an infant sister, Rosemary Sefton; a sister-in-law, Juanita Sefton; and a brother-in-law, Richard Sugden.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Interment will be in the Freiburg Cemetery.

## Shirley McComb

Shirley M. McComb, 89, of Cass City, passed away Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at Tuscola County Medical Care Facility, Caro, after a long illness.

She was born Oct. 3, 1923 in Pigeon, the daughter of the late Victor and Ida (Fisher) Hoppe.

She married Frank McComb Oct. 3, 1947 in Cass City. He passed away Jan. 2, 1991.

Shirley was a homemaker and a lifetime area resident. She was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the Cass City VFW Auxiliary.

Shirley is survived by her sons: Timothy (Gina) McComb of Nevada, and Thomas McComb of Tennessee; 3 grandchildren: Carol Ann, Megan and Loren; and a sister, Joyce (the late Jim) Bannick of Elkton.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Loren.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 25, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, with Pastor Steve Bagnall officiating.

Burial was in the Elkland Township Cemetery, Cass City.

Family and friends may share condolences at [www.thabetfuneral-home.com](http://www.thabetfuneral-home.com).

Arrangements were made by Thabet Funeral Home, Cass City.

## Marie Stickle

Marie O. Stickle, 92, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Monday evening, March 18, 2013 in Cass County Medical Care Facility.

She was born May 1, 1920 in Cass City, the daughter of Everett and Myrtle (Howley) Darling.

She married Roy Everett Stickle in 1940 in Mt. Pleasant. He preceded her in death.

Marie and her husband owned and operated Stickle's American Cleaners in Cassopolis for many years until Roy's death in 1969. She also worked at Fifth Third Bank for many years after Roy's death. Marie was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club and was an Auxiliary board member of the

Cass County Medical Care Facility. She enjoyed playing bridge and had a circle of friends who played regularly for a number of years. She also enjoyed traveling, including trips to Spain, Hawaii, Africa, and many "mini" excursions around the United States.

Marie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by a son, Jay (Judy) Stickle of Cassopolis; a step-son, Robert (Barbara) Stickle of Cass City; a granddaughter, Gina (Tom) Harwood of Rochester Hills; 2 grandsons: Gregory (Tracy) Stickle of Grandville, and Dennis (Stacey) Stickle of Grayslake, Ill.; 6 great-grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; a sister, Dorothy Tesho of Bridgeport; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a step-daughter, Barbara Doyle; a step-son, John Stickle; a sister, Doris Karr; and a brother, Joseph Darling.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

As an avid, life time reader, her wish was to have memorials made to the Cass District Library, 319 M-62 North, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

Family and friends may share messages of sympathy at [www.wagner-cares.com](http://www.wagner-cares.com).

Arrangements were made by Wagner Family Funerals, Cassopolis.

**Thanks for calling 872-2010 with feature story ideas**

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**We also wish to say a Special Thank You to our Community for all of your support**

# Music In Our Schools

*Cass City High School, elementary students join to share their mutual love of the arts this month*

by Ryan Walker  
Freelance Writer

Nearly every man, woman and child throughout the United States can claim a certain connection to music. Whether it's the casual listener who spends precious free moments listening to the radio or the dedicated musician who practices for hours a day to hone their skills, music plays a key social role for humans.

March is the time of year to celebrate the auditory arts through Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM). The month-long celebration aims to draw attention to the significance of music education in our schools and communities.

Each year MIOSM prepares a theme that will help enhance the image of music education; this year's theme is the slogan, "Music Lasts a Lifetime". Participating schools and organizations take part in various activities to help showcase the talents of students together with their teachers and band directors.

Several members of the Cass City Senior High band recently took their talents and knowledge to Cass City Elementary School to help promote music to the next generation of musicians.

"My biggest goal in celebrating Music In Our Schools Month has just been recruiting more students to band and getting the younger students excited about band," commented Laura Curtis, Cass City Schools director of bands.

Throughout the morning, groups consisting of 3 to 6 senior high band members visited the elementary school music classes. In addition to playing their instruments for the younger students, the senior high band members also talked to the kids about a number of music related topics.

They demonstrated the differences between a mouth piece and reed, and they presented different percussion

instruments. These high school musicians talked about the anatomy of each of their instruments, including the number of valves or keys and what instrument family it belonged to: brass, woodwind, string or percussion. They also allowed the younger students to hold their instruments and push the valves or keys.

Not only did the presenters emphasize basic band information, they also explained the structure of Cass City's band program by providing background information on jazz band and marching band. Then the elder role models elaborated on the excitement generated by the recently completed band festivals, where the Cass City band program drew rave reviews.

The high school musicians also each shared with the elementary students that playing an instrument is much more to them than just a class they take during the school day. They spoke passionately about practicing with friends after school and playing their instruments in their churches as well. The high school musicians agreed that band is "much more than a class, it becomes a family."

Before the morning sessions ended, the elementary students learned about research findings that indicate students who play a musical instrument show increased math abilities. Another message conveyed by the presenters focused on the idea that playing a musical instrument is a positive outlet when you are feeling sad or frustrated. The 2 biggest messages the high school band members relayed to younger students were: "Those who are not in band, do not know what they are missing" and "Practice, practice, practice! The more you practice, the easier and more enjoyable it will become."

Kicking off the afternoon portion of the day's activities was an assembly for Young 5's through the fourth grade. The fifth grade band kicked

off the assembly by performing, and they were followed by a performance by the sixth grade band. Rounding out the assembly was a performance by the senior high jazz band. Some of the songs were interactive, encouraging the audience to participate through rhythmic clapping patterns and singing. Then, Curtis talked to the students about the different instruments.

The final activity of the day was an "Instrument Petting Zoo" for fourth grade students that was set up in the elementary school band room. Scott Brown, recruitment specialist from Marshall Music, brought many different instruments. After explaining the different offerings, Brown let the students try out each instrument.

As the day-long celebration came to an end, students were excitedly talking to each other about what instrument they were going to play when they are old enough to be in band. The halls were abuzz with younger students sharing with friends that their older brother, sister, cousin, or friend was one of the musicians they had heard perform that day.

"I wanted to raise awareness of music and show that it comes in many different forms. I really wanted to feature the talent we have right here in our own schools and help students to see how important music is in education," Curtis said.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Study ranks healthiest counties

Continued from page one.

ing, there continues to be a steady increase in the rates of adult obesity and physical inactivity in Michigan. In addition, more babies are continually being born at a low birth weight.

The good news, officials say, is that these rankings allow Michigan counties to see where they can improve, and based on the change in rankings for many communities, Michigan counties have already begun working on health improvements.

"Michigan counties are already aware of the health issues that their communities face," said James K. Haveman, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health. "These annual rankings allow Michigan's local health departments to focus on the factors in their counties that need addressing because each community is different. I'm glad to see the rankings change each year with the various initiatives, and the department of community health will continue to support counties as they work to improve their residents' health."

The County Health Rankings rate

the overall health of nearly every county in all 50 states, using a standard way to measure how healthy people are and how long they live. The annual rankings include a snapshot of each county in Michigan with a color-coded map comparing each county's overall health ranking. Nearly every county is ranking on health outcomes, how healthy residents are, and on various health factors.

"We all have a stake in creating a healthier community, and no single sector alone can tackle the health challenges in any given community," said Patrick Remington, M.D., professor and associate dean at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. "Collaboration is critical. The rankings are sparking action all over the country as people from all sectors join forces to create new possibilities in health county by county."

Among the health factors researchers look at are rates of adult smoking, adult obesity, excessive drinking among adults and teenage births; the number of uninsured adults, availability of primary care physicians, and preventative hospital stays; rates of high school graduation, adults who have attended some college, children in poverty; community safety; limited access to healthy foods; rates of physical inactivity; and air pollution levels.

Area residents can view Michigan's 2013 county rankings by logging onto the website [www.county-healthrankings.org/michigan](http://www.county-healthrankings.org/michigan).

## New contract

Continued from page one.

workers to opt out of paying dues. The reason is that the local labor agreement was signed before the new legislation goes into effect this week.

As for the financial impact of the contract, Wencel acknowledged school officials will have to dip into the district's roughly \$186,000 fund balance, but he indicated the amount of money involved won't cripple Owen-Gage.

"With the step raises, this year's impact is probably going to be around \$10,000," Wencel said, adding the total cost in 2013-14 (for a full year) will approach \$30,000.

"It was a very fair contract and something the school could afford," he said. "We're not going to go bankrupt because of this contract."

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# CHRONICLE SPORTS

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clarke@ccchronicle.net

## Cass City hopes to reload in 2013

Will 2013 be a time to rebuild or reload for the Cass City Red Hawk baseball program?

Missing, and sure to be missed, are 5 senior team members from last year's squad that established a new school record for wins in a season with an impressive 33-7 record. More importantly, they went on to capture the Greater Thumb West championship and Division 3 district honors, achieved just one other time during the same year – 1973 – in

school history.

Coach Nathan Haag enters his 6th campaign in charge with a raw infield, void of much experience, and questions on the pitching mound, namely with senior ace Cody Orban.

Graduation casualties Morgan Erla and Ethan Nicol leave the Red Hawks untested at the corners of their infield entering early season play. And that's not the only position Haag will need to fill this spring.

New leadership will be needed behind the plate. He'll no longer have the cannon arm of catcher Kyle Hanby to rely on, nor the services of utility player Nick Kappen or backup infielder Jordan Hendrian.

Replacing Erla, who spent much of his distinguished 4-year career at third base before switching to shortstop, will be no easy fete. He batted .331 in his senior year and was an annual pick to the GTW all-conference first team. Sure to get a good

look at protecting the left sideline this season will be junior newcomer Brock Thane. He enjoyed success for the Red Hawk junior varsity team and Coach Haag would like nothing better than that success to carry over into this season.

Expected to guard the first base line for Haag is another first-year varsity player in Brad Thornton. Thornton, the team's only sophomore, is known for his big bat, but only time will tell if he and Thane can handle the hot

corners defensively at the varsity level.

Still another underclassman, freshman Mason Erla, will replace his older brother at the number 6 position. If Cass City hopes to claim its third straight district banner later this spring, Erla will need to perform at a high level at a young age.

Cass City's youthful infield – with journeymen only at second base in returnees Jake Hacker and Dakota Hartel – should benefit from arguably the Greater Thumb West's top pitching staff among Haag's 5 returnees.

Hartel and Hacker will not only share time at second base, but also on the rubber. Both are proven performers. Hartel was named to the GTW all-conference second team as a sophomore.

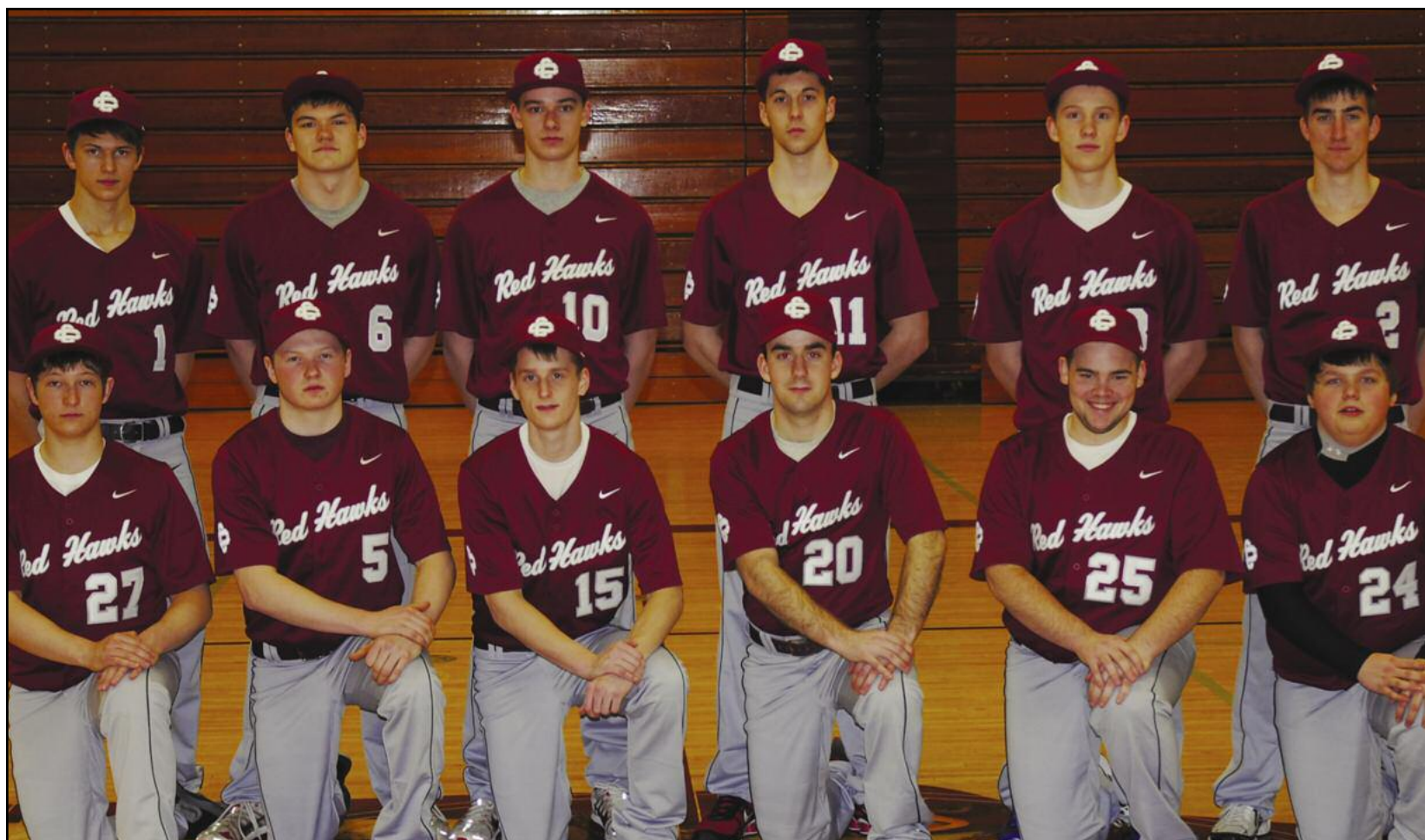
While the junior pair gives Haag 2 strong arms, they didn't match the numbers posted by Orban a year ago. He worked a total of 68 2/3 innings in 2012 and compiled a perfect 11-0 record, which also included 4 saves. His ERA was an amazing 0.82. Orban chalked up 128 strike outs, while allowing just 17 bases on balls.

Orban, however, was unavailable for mound duties by the end of last season due to arm troubles. If he isn't able to deliver on the hill, Cass City's chances of defending their GTW honors will suffer a huge blow.

Senior Lukas Schenk, an all-conference second team outfielder in 2012, led Cass City with 42 hits last year. He's pegged for right field and returning senior Cody Ross is an established glove in left.

Completing the returning player list for Cass City is junior Watson Moore. Moore hit 4 home runs as a sophomore and was named to the GTW all-conference second team. A clutch hitter at the plate, he'll play behind the plate on defense.

Newcomers Drew Field, Alex Adams, Nick Karwowski and Braeden Perzanowski round out this year's Red Hawk squad and will compete for playing time as the season progresses.



**CASS CITY'S 2013 varsity baseball team members include: (front, l-r) Dakota Hartel, Jake Hacker, Cody Orban, Alex Adams, Brock Thane, Brad Thornton (back) Nick Karwowski, Watson Moore, Mason Erla, Cody Ross, Drew Field and Lukas Schenk, Missing is Braeden Perzanowski.**

## Lady Hawks lack dominant pitcher entering 2013 campaign

Coach John Hacker feels his Cass City Lady Red Hawk softball team will have to earn each one of the team's wins in 2013.

"There won't be any easy games for us this year," said the third year skipper. "We don't have that dominant pitcher like I'm used to having."

Since taking the helm in 2011, Hacker has been able to ride the arm of 3-year pitching ace Shannon Stec.

"Shannon is near the top of the school's record board for strikeouts and earned run average," Hacker said, noting Stec was one of 5 senior Red Hawks named to the Greater Thumb West all-conference first team in 2012. Stec capped her senior season being named to the all-district first team.

Stec isn't Cass City's only loss on the mound from a year ago. Add Rebecca Hacker, who received both all-conference and all-district first team recognition for Cass City in 2012, to Coach Hacker's pitching

woes, which leaves the Red Hawks without any experience at a key position entering a new campaign.

Cass City's graduation toll wasn't limited to the hill. 2012 GTW dream team members Morgan Potter, Megan Parrish and Carley Hendrick will prove to be tough shoes to fill for Coach Hacker going forward.

Trying on the team leaders' slippers in 2013 are returning seniors

Stephanie Heckroth and Lauren Perry, together with junior Shania Chambers. All 3 received GTW all-conference praises a year ago with Heckroth, landing on the GTW second team in the outfield. Perry, catcher, and Chambers, infielder, were tagged with honorable mention accolades.

Underclassmen Rachel Bartnik, at second base, and Alliah Riddle, at

shortstop, are back with a year of experience under their belts and should play bigger roles if the Red Hawks are to improve on last year's record of 22-18.

Hacker has been impressed by first year player Susa Palviala in center field and has Andrea Mikolon returning to patrol in right field.

Competing for time at first base, according to Hacker, are varsity

rookie Audrey VanAuken and returnee Ellen Hulburt.

Hacker also has one rookie, in junior Lauren Bukoski, and one veteran in senior Karley Peters battling for the pitching chores.

Expected to see plenty of playing time in the early season are untested varsity prospects Mady Brinkman, Kara Reif, Hannah Hulburt and Erika Martin.

## Hill, Hartsell among NCTL all-conference hoop selections

Kingston's Steven Hill and Eric Hartsell were among the North Central Thumb League all-conference boys' basketball selections, according to the vote of league coaches.

Named to the North Central Thumb League 6-member first team were Cody Pyles, Mayville; Kyle Abrego and Tristen Haener, Peck; Kyle Case, North Huron; and Connor Amey and Matt Falls, Carsonville-Port Sanilac.

Hill landed on the North Central Thumb League second team to highlight the Cardinal picks and is joined by Cody Abrego, Peck; Dustin Siemen and Nick Goretzki, North Huron; Eric Koglin, Port Hope; Ryan Davis, Carsonville-Port Sanilac; and Ben Smith, Deckerville.

Hartsell received honorable mention praises, as did Tyler Beurmann and Cameron Warren, Peck; Chase Louwers, Kyle Denhoff and Matt Kurschner, Caseville; and Nathan Spaetzel and Trevor Philpot, Deckerville.



**THE CASS CITY 2013 varsity softball team members include: (front, l-r) Lauren Bukoski, Rachel Bartnik, Andrea Mikolon, Mady Brinkman, Kara Reif (middle) Lauren Perry, Karley Peters, Erika Martin, Susa Palviala, Shania Chambers, Alliah Riddle (back) Asst. Coach Ken Martin, Ellen Hulburt, Audrey Van Auken, Hannah Hulburt, Stephanie Heckroth and Coach John Hacker.**



THE CASS CITY 6th grade boys' basketball team included: (front, l-r) Thomas Harp, Sam Gasta, Cody McCormick, Hayden Larkin, Zack Essex (back) Hank Janik, Luke Stern, Zack Beecher, Josh Stone, Kyle Schneeberger and Coach Josh Stern.

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## 2012-13 GTC East Boys' Basketball All-Conference

### First Team

Brad Schaub	Marlette	Junior
Aaron Ginther	Harbor Beach	Senior
Eli Kraft	Harbor Beach	Junior
Andrew Siemen	Harbor Beach	Senior
Nick Sweeney	Ubly	Senior
Aaron Hayes	Memphis	Junior

### Second Team

Chase Baysdell	Marlette	Senior
Qwell Jackson	Marlette	Senior
Alex Bartle	Brown City	Junior
Gabe Messing	Ubly	Senior
Gage Frank	Sandusky	Senior
Chase Bullis	Sandusky	Senior

### Honorable Mention

Ian Reagin	Marlette	Junior
Zack Kady	Marlette	Senior
Anthony Kappen	Marlette	Senior
Brandon Oswald	Harbor Beach	Senior
John Kraft	Harbor Beach	Senior
Trenton Morell	Ubly	Junior
Kurt Kubacki	Ubly	Soph.
Tyler Brandel	Ubly	Junior
David Gaedcke	Memphis	Junior
Jared Wagester	Sandusky	Junior
Jacob Lasecki	Sandusky	Soph.
Dalton Okie	Sandusky	Soph.

## BOWLING

Merchonettes as of March 21

Thumb Octagon Barn	54
Just One More	53
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Individual High Game & Series: Joan Koch 177 (492).  
Individual High HDCP Game & Series: Joan Koch 227 (642).  
Team High Game & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 589 (1631).  
Team High Game & Series: Thumb Octagon Barn 804 (2276).  
Splits: Peggy Hellwig 4-5-7; Cyndi Martin 2-6.

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CASS CITY SCHOOLS fifth grade teacher Andrea Ross and her husband ran the St. Patrick's Day 5k race in Bay City, finishing with times of 27.01 and 23.20, respectively. They are pictured above with one of Andrea's students, Evan Neff, who also completed the race, with a time of 25.52. Ross noted another of her students, Brayden Wilson (not pictured), also participated in the event, finishing in 32.06.

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# Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Vent-free gas appliances help reduce home heating costs

In today's economic climate, many homeowners are choosing vent-free gas appliances to cut their energy costs, which can efficiently provide

supplemental heat to areas of the home that are used most often. These appliances include vent-free gas space heaters, fireplaces, logs, inserts, and stoves and are available in a wide array of choices to meet a homeowner's space and decor needs.

"Vent-free gas appliances are an efficient and easy way for a homeowner to add supplemental heat and ambiance to a room without driving up their energy costs," says Sue Walker, Chairman of the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance.

"Considering fuel costs are rising, consumers are looking for opportunities to use less. Since vent-free gas appliances convert virtually all of the fuel they use into heat, they are very efficient. In addition, because most of these appliances require no electricity, they also are beneficial during a power outage.

Vent-free gas products also have a stellar safety record. Every vent-free gas product sold in the U.S. is equipped with an Oxygen Detection Safety-Pilot (ODS), which automatically shuts off the gas supply if the oxygen level in the room approaches a minimum set by American National Standards Institute.

"We encourage our customers to make sure their heating appliances are installed correctly, maintained properly, and serviced regularly," says Jack Klimp, CEO of the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, which represents members of the Vent-Free Gas Products Alliance. "This helps ensure the equipment is in safe working order and working as efficiently as possible."

## Lawn and garden sales up

According to the National Garden Association (NGA), Americans are beginning to spend more on their lawns and gardens.

In their 2007 National Gardening Survey, NGA found that retail sales of lawn and garden products to consumers increased by 3 percent to more than \$35 billion. That's a positive sign for the lawn and garden industry, marking the first time since 2002 that overall retail lawn and garden sales had increased.

While many homeowners recognize

the value of a lawn's aesthetic appeal, the survey also showed that many more homeowners could be looking to lawn and garden activities as hobbies, as 31 percent of all households admitted growing indoor houseplants while another 30 percent of households admitted to planting flower gardens.

Overall, the average household spent \$428 on do-it-yourself lawn and garden activities in 2007 -- a 7 percent increase from the previous year.

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## Tips to prevent home fires

Fire departments responded to approximately 1.5 million fires in 2008, resulting in over \$15 billion in property loss.

"Fires can be prevented and the deaths and injuries associated with them avoided," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Here are some NFPA tips to preventing home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying. If you must leave, turn off the stove.
- Screens can keep sparks inside fireplaces.
- Keep flammable items at least three feet from heaters and light fixtures.
- Have heating equipment cleaned and inspected yearly.
- Replace damaged electrical cords.
- Call an electrician if you have recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom on every level of the home.

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 If you're handy, have a large family or looking for a good deal, then this may be just what you're looking for. The home needs some work, but has lots of possibilities. There are 5 to 6 bedrooms and 2 baths. Also hardwood floors, nicer kitchen cabinets, appliances, a fireplace, claw foot tub, basement, garage and more. Come take a look. All offers must be accompanied by a lender preapproval letter or proof of funds. UB-103

**NEW!**  
 Picture perfect. Anyone would be proud to own this 3 bedroom home. It is beautifully decorated with many extras. The home includes a natural gas fireplace in the living room, a full finished basement with wet bar, full bath and 2 extra finished rooms. Central air, large deck off the rear of the home plus much more. All this setting on 4.02 acres. This is a must see. MI-183

**SOLD!!**  
 Large story home offers 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. It needs some TLC. Backyard is private and has a large deck. Large detached 2-car garage. MR-161

**NEW!!**  
 Victorian style 2-story home, with plenty of room for your family, offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,700 sq. ft., original woodwork and some hardwood floors. It is close to schools and hospital. With a little paint, it will be a place to call home. Call today for a preview. CT-952

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**NEW on the Market**  
**CUTE 2 BEDROOM.** 1-story home, on a corner lot, with a full basement and 1.5 detached garage. New windows November 2010. Convenient location to schools and downtown. TCC1649

**NEW LISTING**  
**A COUNTRY FEEL** right in the village. This 4 bedroom, 3 full baths & two 1/2 baths home, features a finished basement with bar and fireplace, 1st floor laundry, central air, home office, 2 1/2-car garage and a 16'x32' enclosed pool. Come take a look! TCC1648

**GREAT FAMILY HOME.** 2-story home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, natural woodwork, hardwood floors, gas log fireplace, French doors, open staircase, A must see home. TCC1637

**COUNTRY LIVING AND AFFORDABLE!!!** Three bedroom home with first floor laundry, 1.5-car attached garage, unfinished basement and a 10'x10' shed. Home sets on 2 acres with walnut trees, pear trees and flowers planted throughout. Furnace and roof about 3 years old. Kingston schools. CY2652

**Contact the Chronicle for:**

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FAMILY MEMBERS of Ralph and Lena Dormey hope some area residents can provide them with some information and/or photos related to the old Cass City Roller Rink (located in what is now the Excel Group Call Center next to McDonald's), owned by the Dormeys from 1957 through 1959. The photos shown here were taken at the rink and include a picture (at right) of (from left) Christa Dormey, Lena Dormey, Linda Dormey and Mary Ellen Kerr. Anyone with something to contribute is asked to contact Linda Dormey Watkins at (517) 617-2777 or via email at [lcwatkins@yahoo.com](mailto:lcwatkins@yahoo.com).



## TNB appoints Bushey to board of directors

The directors of Thumb National Bank recently appointed Jeff Bushey as an advisory board member to replace long-time board member John P. Kohr, who will be retiring after serving 16 years as a director.

"Having Jeff join our board will ensure that we continue to provide the highest level of expertise and oversight to the bank, especially in the area of agri-business," said Board Chairman, David McCormick.

Bushey is a CPA and managing partner with Nietzke & Faupel, PC. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University and earned his CPA license in 1987.

He began serving as managing partner of Nietzke & Faupel, PC in 2009. Bushey devotes most of his time to agricultural accounting and travels frequently to visit clients throughout Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin.

He is a member and past president of the Farm Financial Standards Council, a nation-wide organization committed to standardizing the reporting formats of agricultural entities. He also currently serves as the chairman of the MACPA Specialized Interest Track Leadership Committee.

In addition to his responsibilities and duties with Nietzke & Faupel PC, Bushey owns and operates a cash crop operation near his home in Caseville. He and his wife, Diane, have 2 teenage daughters.

Kohr will be recognized for his many years of service at this year's annual shareholder's meeting scheduled for mid-April.

"John's insight and service to Thumb National Bank over the past 16 years has been greatly appreciated. His keen business sense and expertise, especially in agriculture, helped the bank navigate through some difficult economic times and remain a sound financial institution both here in the Thumb and in our Bay City market," said Jay Dubey, president and CEO of Thumb National Bank & Trust Co.



Jeff Bushey



John Kohr

## Green's bill would exempt VSOs from paying sales tax

State Sen. Mike Green recently introduced a package of bills to exempt veteran service organizations (VSOs) from charging or paying sales tax on fundraiser revenue.

Current state law provides an exemption to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations if their annual revenue is less than \$5,000. VSOs do not qualify because they were originally chartered by Congress as 501(c)(19) entities.

Green's legislation would make these veteran groups eligible for the exemption and increase the allowable sales threshold for all groups to \$25,000. The threshold has not been updated since the 1990s.

"Michigan should recognize the critical role that local veterans groups fill in assisting our veterans by treating them in the tax code the same as we do other charitable causes," said Green (R-Mayville). "Without these dedicated posts in our communities, so many veterans would fall through the cracks and that, to me, is unacceptable."

VSOs include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and American Veterans, among others. Although VSOs provide extensive charitable and honorary services to active duty service members and local veterans, they are not offered the sales tax exemption.

Many local VSO posts are struggling financially due to declining membership, increased costs and tough economic times. While the legislation would have a negligible impact on the state budget, it could mean a lot for posts on the verge of closure.

"This small change may be just enough to help a post keep its doors open and continue helping their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines," Green said.

During the 2011-12 legislative session, Green introduced a similar bill after a local veterans group in his district was subjected to the sales tax on proceeds raised during a fundraiser for a soldier severely wounded during combat operations in Afghanistan.

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